Instructor: Dr. Arnd Jürgensen, Office: Sidney Smith Bldg. 3112; Office Hours: Wednesday 3 to 4 PM (by appointment) please contact me by e-mail: arnd.jurgensen@utoronto.ca

Course Objectives

This course will introduce students to the study of International Relations. It will begin with a discussion of the different theoretical approaches scholars have utilized in analyzing international politics, before exploring the nature and origins of the international system of states. War and the nature of conflict between states and within states will be explored before turning to attempts to transform international relations through international organization and law as well as trade and globalization. We will conclude by discussing the challenge posed to the global community by environmental threats.

Format and Requirements

The course will meet for a two-hour class every Wednesday. The lectures will be made accessible both synchronously and asynchronously through the Quercus system for at least the month of January (and longer if circumstances make that necessary). Each class will begin with a lecture, followed by class discussions and questions. Students will be responsible for the materials covered in the lectures as well as the readings (which are complimentary to the lectures and will not always cover the same material). An effort will be made to link class discussions to current events, wherever possible. It is recommended that students keep themselves informed of current developments by reading the Toronto Star, Globe and Mail, etc..

Tutorials

Tutorials will meet once a week starting the week of Jan.24. Attendance and participation in tutorial discussions is mandatory and will determine 10% of your final grade in the course. Tutorials are your opportunity to interact with other students and the TAs and to explore your understanding of the concepts and ideas introduced in the class. Experience has shown that students that make extensive use of tutorials are better able to articulate key course concepts and thus tend to achieve higher grades on course tests and assignments.

Essay

A prompt for your essay assignment will be posted. The nature of the essay assignment will be discussed in class in detail. Late submissions will be penalized at the rate of 2% per day.
including weekends. Extensions will be granted only in cases of documented illness or family emergency.

Tutorial participation: 10%
Mid-term quiz: 20% (posted on line Feb. 9)
Essay assignment 30% (Due Nov.24)
Final Examination 40% (TBD)

Lectures and Readings:

Foundations: What is the International System of States? How did it come into existence? How do we study it?

Jan. 12: Introduction: What are International Relations?
Readings: Frieden, Lake & Schultz: Introduction

Jan. 19: Five Centuries in Two Hours: The Emergence of the Westphalian State System
Readings: Frieden, Lake & Schultz: Chapter 1 pp.2-23
Charles Tilly; War Making and State Making as Organized Crime; in Evans, Rueschemeyer and Skocpol eds. Bringing the State Back In, Cambridge University Press 1985,

Jan.26: The Cold War and it’s Aftermath
Readings: Frieden, Lake & Schultz: Chapter 1, pp 23-41
Waltz, Kenneth N. 1990. “Nuclear Myths and Political Realities.” The American Political Science Review. 84/3:731-745

War

Feb. 2: The causes of War
Readings: Frieden Lake & Schultz: chapter 3

Feb. 9: Domestic Politics and War
Readings: Frieden, Lake & Schultz: chapter 4

Ending Anarchy

Feb. 16: International Institutions (essay prompt will be posted)
Readings: Frieden, Lake & Schultz: chapter 5

Feb.23: Reading Week

March 2: International Law & Norms (essays assignment due)
Readings: Frieden Lake & Schultz: chapter 11
Coplin, William D. 2006. “International Law and Assumptions About the
State System.” In Williams, Phil, Donald M. Goldstein and Jay M. Shafritz, eds. Classic Readings and Contemporary Debates in International Relations. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, pp. 302-320

International Political Economy

March 9: Introduction: Globalization I: Trade
Readings: Frieden, Lake & Schultz: chapter 7 (chapters 8&9 recommended)

March 16: Globalization II: North-South
Readings: Frieden, Lake & Schultz: chapter10

March 23: The Global Environment
Readings: Frieden, Lake & Schultz: chapter 13

March 30: The Future of International Politics
Readings: Frieden, Lake & Schultz: chapter 14

April 6 Final Test (format and location TBD)